



Welcome Back!

From Kentucky Commissioner of Education
Stephen L. Pruitt

Welcome back teachers! With the temperatures still hovering between “sweltering” and “oppressive,” it’s hard to believe that summer has come to an end and it’s time to start another school year. Regardless of what the thermometer outside reads, I hope you’re as excited as I am for another school year full of opportunities to make a positive impact on the lives of Kentucky’s children.

In this email you will find updates about things that happened over the summer that you may find useful and resources to help you in your classroom. Also be sure to check out my Welcome Back video, which is [available here](#).



ESSA Updates

It’s been a busy summer for many educators as we’ve kicked off the first meetings of the [Commissioner’s Accountability Steering Committee](#) and the accountability work groups. The work groups have been tasked with designing various elements of the new school accountability system under the federal [Every Student Succeeds Act](#).

The work groups will focus on:

- ▶ Assessment – how Kentucky’s new accountability system should measure academic achievement for all students.

- ▶ College- and Career-Readiness – how college- and career-readiness should be defined and measured in Kentucky’s new accountability model.
- ▶ Educational Innovations – what new and innovative approaches could be integrated into Kentucky’s new accountability model.
- ▶ Opportunity and Access – how Kentucky’s new accountability model can measure equal opportunity for all students to a well-rounded education.
- ▶ School Improvement – how our new accountability model can incentivize continuous improvement for all schools.

Each work group will make recommendations to the Accountability Steering Committee, which will in turn make recommendations on the overall system to me. The tentative plan is to have the proposed system ready for public feedback in November and present a final plan to the Kentucky Board of Education for a first reading in January 2017. The new accountability system is tentatively scheduled to be in place for the 2017-18 school year.

I personally thank all of the superintendents, principals and teachers who sit on the steering committee and work groups. You are taking on a tremendous task of envisioning a new accountability system, a job that couldn’t be accomplished without your dedication and devotion to Kentucky’s children.



KDE Reorganization

When you reach out to staff at KDE, you might notice some changes in the names of offices.

We changed a few of the names of divisions and offices to more effectively communicate to schools, districts, educators and advisory councils what an office does.

The changes include:

- ▶ Renaming the Office of Administration and Support to the **Office of Finance and Operations**.
- ▶ Renaming the Office of Knowledge, Information and Data Services to the **Office of Education Technology**.

a. Renaming the Division of KETS Engineering and Management to the **Division of School Technology, Planning and Project Management**.

b. Renaming the Division of KETS Operations and Services to the **Division of School**

Technology.

- c. Renaming the Division of Enterprise Data to the **Division of School Data Services**.
- ▶ Renaming the Office of Guiding Support Services to the **Office of Legal, Legislative and Communication Services**.
- ▶ Renaming the Office of Next Generation Schools and Districts to the **Office of Continuous Improvement and Support**.
- ▶ Renaming the Office of Next Generation Learners to the **Office of Teaching and Learning**.
- ▶ Renaming the two divisions in the **Office of Assessment and Accountability**.
 - a. Division of Assessment Design and Implementation changed to the **Division of Accountability, Data and Analysis**.
 - b. Division of Support and Research changed to the **Division of Assessment Support**.

Next Generation Professionals Newsletter

Speaking of name changes, the Next Generation Professionals Newsletter has been revised and rebranded as the Educator Development Newsletter.

The newsletter has undergone exciting changes! Articles will include more firsthand accounts of successful practices by teachers and other professionals, tips and guidance from principals, highlights from effective learning communities and important reminders.

The Educator Development Newsletter is the primary tool for information regarding equity, the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System, professional learning, recruitment and retention, Title II Part A and educator career pathways.

Who should subscribe?

- ▶ Teachers and other professionals
 - ▶ Principals
 - ▶ Superintendents
 - ▶ Other district personnel (PDC, CAO, CIO, etc.)
 - ▶ Partner organizations and community members interested in the development of educators
- To subscribe, [click here](#). Questions can be directed to zack.marinelli@education.ky.gov.



We're Moving!

Starting Aug. 22 through Sept. 30, the Kentucky Department of Education will be relocating to a new building in Frankfort. Staff phone numbers will not change, but there may be a slight delay in responding to your phone call or email.

If you plan on attending a KDE meeting or wish to visit a staff member during this time period, please confirm ahead of time at which building you will be meeting.

The address of the new building is 300 Sower Blvd., Frankfort, KY 40601. Mail sent to the 500 Mero Street address will be delivered to the new building daily during the transition period.

More IMS Resources Coming

CIITS – the [Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System](#) – has been used in Kentucky's schools since 2009 and consists of two primary components: the Instructional Management System (IMS) and the Educator Development Suite (EDS).

We are investing more resources and training in the IMS portion of the program. Some of the new features will include:

- ▶ data dashboards for all users
- ▶ more open resources for teachers and administrators
- ▶ more than 100,000 PBS/KET resources aligned to all Kentucky Academic Standards
- ▶ a more streamlined Assessment module

The Educational Cooperatives are receiving continuous training on the IMS portion to help them better serve all districts.

More improvements are coming with the 18.0 release in late October or early November. This will help **administrators** make informed decisions based on timely access to data analytics and trends that could impact their curriculum and learning environment.

Finally, CIITS is **bringing together** the formerly disparate functions of instruction, assessment, data analysis and reporting into a single platform, reducing complexity and increasing effectiveness in the classroom.

Kentucky Teacher Resources

When looking for lesson plans, new ideas for your classroom or the latest in workshops and conferences, don't forget to visit [Kentucky Teacher's](#) subject pages! KDE's many subject-specific newsletters have all been rolled into one website to make it easy for you to find what you need.



Be sure to visit *Kentucky Teacher* for information about [Visual and Performing Arts](#), [Global Competency/World Languages](#), [Library Media](#), [Literacy](#), [Mathematics](#), [Science](#) and [Social Studies](#). And coming soon will be a brand-new page featuring information on Health & Physical Education.

Kentucky Teacher also will continue to publish [feature stories](#) highlighting the best ideas from across the Commonwealth, captivating [photoblogs](#) and [guest columnists](#) from Kentucky's education community. Make sure to visit often.

